

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANAGU 01324 081452Z

43

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 SY-05 L-02 H-02 FBIE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 /041 W

----- 038496

R 081400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6653

UNCLAS MANAGUA 1324

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: DETENTION USC'S WALTER STAIB AND HELMUT HERDTLE

1. EMBASSY'S CONSULAR OFFICE AND DAO ASSISTED TWO USC'S ON MARCH 27 WHO WERE BEING HELD BY POLICE AUTHORITIES AT LA PAZ CENTRO, A SMALL TOWN ABOUT 25 MILES NORTH OF MANAGUA. WALTER STAIB AND HELMUT HERDTLE, BOTH GERMAN-BORN USC'S, WERE INVOLVED IN A SHOOTING INCIDENT THE NIGHT OF MARCH 26-27 WHILE ON A CAMPING TRIP WITH NICARAGUAN GUIDE AND FRIENDS. (STAIB IS MARRIED TO NICARAGUAN). THEIR STORY IS THAT NICARAGUAN GUIDE AND ONE OF HIS FRIENDS BEGAN SHOOTING AT CAMPSITE IN EARLY EVENING OF MARCH 26, AND KEPT STAIB, HERDTLE AND THREE NICARAGUAN FRIENDS PINNED DOWN THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. ONE OF THE NICARAGUAN FRIENDS HAD A .22 RIFLE WHICH WAS USED TO KEEP ASSAILANTS AT BAY. POLICE ARRIVED THE NEXT MORNING, APPARENTLY HAVING BEEN ATTRACTED BY THE GUNFIRE, AND TOOK ALL CONCERNED TO LA PAZ CENTRO STATION. ONE OF THE ASSAILANTS HAD BEEN WOUNDED DURING THE NIGHT AND WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL.

2. CONSULAR OFFICER WAS NOTIFIED OF DETENTION IN EVENING OF MARCH 27, AND WITH ASSISTANCE FROM DAO ARRANGED FOR RELEASE OF THE TWO USC'S UPON THEIR PROMISE TO RETURN TO LA PAZ CENTRO FOR COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATION THE FOLLOWING MONDAY, MARCH 31. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE, THE TWO USC'S CONTRACTED WITH A LOCAL LAWYER, WHO CAME TO LA PAZ CENTRO FROM LEON A BIT GRUDGINGLY ON HOLY THURSDAY, TO REPRESENT THEM AT THE INVESTIGATION HEARING ON EASTER MONDAY. THE LAWYER ACCEPTED THE EQUIVALENT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MANAGU 01324 081452Z

OF \$428 AT THAT TIME AS HIS FEE.

3. IN THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 31 THE CONSUL AND THE DAO DROVE THE TWO USC'S TO LA PAZ CENTRO AND REMAINED IN THE VICINITY OF THE POLICE STATION WHILE THEIR STATEMENTS WERE BEING TAKEN. LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, STAIB APPROACHED THE EMBASSY OFFICERS TO STATE THAT HIS LAWYER HAD INDICATED THAT HE COULD ARRANGE TO HAVE THE CASE SETTLED THAT AFTERNOON TO THE COMPLETE SATISFACTION OF THE TWO AMERICANS AND THEIR NICARAGUAN FRIENDS FOR THE SUM OF \$1142 (8000 CORDOBAS). THE CONSUL TOLD THE AMERICAN THAT WHILE HE, THE CONSUL, COULD NOT ADVISE ON LEGAL MATTERS, HE HIMSELF WOULD NOT PAY ANY ADDITIONAL "FEES." STAIB SAID THAT HE AGREED AND WENT BACK TO THE HEARING. MUCH LATER, JUST BEFORE LEAVING, AND AFTER HAVING RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE JUDGE COMPLETELY EXHONORATING THE AMERICANS AND THEIR NICARAGUAN FRIENDS, THE AMERICANS PAID THEIR LAWYER THE \$1142. THEY TOLD THE CONSUL AND THE DAO THAT FELT THEY HAD TO DO SO IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THEIR NICARAGUAN FRIENDS WOULD BE COMPLETELY AND ABSOLUTELY FREE OF ANY FUTURE PROBLEMS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TWO AMERICANS RETURNED TO THE US ON SUNDAY, APRIL 6.

4. WALTER STAIB IS EXECUTIVE CHEF OF HYATT HOTEL IN ATLANTA. CLAIMS HE KNOWS PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER PERSONALLY, AND WILL WRITE COMPLAINTS (DIRECTED AGAINST NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES, NOT THIS EMBASSY) TO THEM UPON RETURN. FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED.
SHELTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAGU01324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750122-0052
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750472/aaaacnpa.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <26 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <16 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTION USC'S WALTER STAIB AND HELMUT HERDTLE
TAGS: CASC, (STAIB, WALTER), (HERDTLE, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006